



*United States Attorney  
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**ANGELO DIPIETRO SENTENCED TO 59 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT**  
**FOR LEADING A WAVE OF VIOLENT CRIME**  
**IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that ANGELO DIPIETRO, a/k/a "Fat Angelo," was sentenced today to 59 years in federal prison for his leadership and participation in a series of violent crimes committed in Westchester County, primarily during the Summer of 2001. United States District Judge SHIRLEY WOHL KRAM also imposed a term of supervised release of three years, and in imposing sentence, described DIPIETRO's offense conduct as "depraved" and "despicable."

In July 2005, DIPIETRO and four co-defendants were found guilty after a 12-week jury trial in Manhattan federal court of numerous violent offenses. DIPIETRO was found guilty of conspiracy to commit extortion, extortion, attempted extortion, using firearms in connection with crimes of violence, conspiracy to commit robbery, attempted robbery, and conspiracy to collect and the collection of extensions of credit by extortionate means (commonly known as loansharking).

The evidence at trial demonstrated that during the Summer of 2001, DIPIETRO was retained by several other individuals to extort money from a purported financial advisor, John Perazzo, who was convicted in 2002 in New York State Supreme Court, Westchester County, of multiple counts of grand larceny resulting from the operation of a fraudulent pyramid scheme in which Perazzo paid old investors with money provided by newly recruited investors. The evidence at trial showed that DIPIETRO and several of his co-defendants sought to obtain the proceeds of John Perazzo's pyramid scheme by threats of violence, actual violence, and the use of firearms. For example, the evidence demonstrated that on June 29, 2001, DIPIETRO and several of his co-defendants planned and executed the kidnapping of Perazzo at the Applebee's restaurant at

the Cross County Shopping Center in Yonkers, New York. After Perazzo was kidnapped, he was taken to the former residence of DIPIETRO on Archer Avenue in Mount Vernon, New York, and was physically threatened for hours with firearms and M-80 fireworks until PERAZZO provided money to DIPIETRO and others. The evidence also demonstrated that on July 9 and 10, 2001, DIPIETRO and others were present at the former home of Perazzo on Sammis Lane in White Plains, New York, and participated in an armed confrontation with a rival group that was also seeking to extort money from Perazzo. This confrontation led, later that evening, to a high-speed car chase on the Hutchinson River Parkway in which juveniles recruited by DIPIETRO to facilitate the commission of the extortion offenses fired shots at a member of the rival group before the juveniles crashed their car.

The evidence also showed that during the same period of time, DIPIETRO planned and participated in numerous burglaries and home invasions in Westchester County, including in Dobbs Ferry, Mamaroneck, and Eastchester, New York, among other locations. In planning and executing these robberies, DIPIETRO again utilized the assistance of juveniles in an attempt to steal money and valuables from victims who, in many cases, were individuals known to DIPIETRO. In particular, DIPIETRO was convicted of planning and executing the July 18, 2001, armed home invasion of the residence of some of his own relatives on Wilmot Road in Eastchester, New York, during which two women were physically harmed.

Finally, the evidence at trial demonstrated that DIPIETRO also worked as a loanshark, using threats of violence to collect debts, including illegal debts arising from an illegal sports bookmaking operation formerly operated by DIPIETRO and others in Port Chester, New York.

DIPIETRO was also convicted in January 2006, after a fourteen-week jury trial in Manhattan federal court, of numerous other offenses, including racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, extortion, and using a firearm in connection with a crime of violence, related to his participation in the Rudaj Organization, a violent organized crime enterprise operating in Westchester County, the Bronx, and Astoria, Queens. DIPIETRO and five of his co-defendants in that matter, all of whom were found guilty by the trial jury of numerous violent offenses, are scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge DENISE L. COTE on Friday, June 16, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.

DIPIETRO, 49, is the former proprietor of Sue's Rendezvous, a topless nightclub located in Mount Vernon, and Green Apples Eatery, a restaurant located in Mount Vernon, New York. DIPIETRO formerly

lived in Mount Vernon, New York, and most recently lived in Hopewell Junction, New York.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the New York State Police and the Mount Vernon Police Department in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

Assistant United States Attorneys TIMOTHY J. TREANOR and ERIC B. BRUCE are in charge of the prosecution.

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